

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action dated May 15, 2003, requiring election between the claims of Species A (Figure 3); B (Figures 4); C (Figures 5A and 5B); and D (Figure 6).

Based on the review of the claims, as currently amended and the claims newly added, the following claims appear to be associated with each of the species:

Species A: 1-4, 13-14, 16

Species B: 1, 5-8, 13-18

Species C: 1, 5-6, 8-19

Species D: 13-15

Thus, claims 13-14 are generic to all species. Claims 1, 13-14 and 16 are generic to Species A, B, and C. Claims 1, 5-6, 8, 13-18 are generic to Species B and C. Applicants select the embodiment of Species C with traverse. As taught in the application, the depression may be formed in the deck by the sharp edge of Species B and C biting into the cylinder head deck.

Applicants respectfully assert that although an examiner need not cite specific documents, he must provide reasons and/or examples to support the restriction requirement. See MPEP §803, Guidelines. Although Applicants appreciate the Examiner's delineation of Species in regards to Figures, Applicants respectfully observes an absence of reasons and/or examples pertaining to this conclusion.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the four species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of one of the four species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other species. See MPEP § 803, which states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, the election is made with traverse as to Species A through D.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to this communication, he is kindly urged to call the undersigned. It is believed that no fees are due with the submission of this Response to Election/Restriction Requirement. However, if necessary, any necessary fees may be charged to Deposit Account 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman & Grauer, PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,

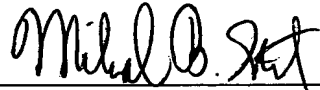
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